CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.		25X′
SUBJECT	Conditions in Shanghai	DATE DISTR.	2.5 June 1953	
	, '	NO. OF PAGES	2	
25X DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X′
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- 2. Most White Russians do not find it difficult to leave Shanghai. The usual time allowed for departure is about five months from the time an application is made to the time it is approved. Only the more important people, like business owners or the managers of large concerns, find it difficult to get permission to leave. Business owners have to liquidate all assets before departure and pay the salaries of all employees with a bomms computed at one half a month to one month per year. The assets are decided on by the local authorities, and pressure is exerted for payment of bomuses; only a one-half percent per month tax is levied. Managers of large concerns must have replacements before they can leave.
- 3. Most of the larger buildings in Shanghai have been taken over by the Government. The top floor of the Cathay Mansions has been turned into a restaurant called the "King Kong". Grosvenor House has been untouched, and many leading business men and diplomats live there. Most of the department stores, Wing On Company, Sincere Company and Sun Company, have instituted a new procedure by leasing counters to various unions, which display and sell their own products. Many small stores are closing down because there is nothing to sell to the average public. One can purchase anything in Shanghai if one has the money.
- 4. The Foreign Y.M.C.A. has been closed to the public from the first floor up. All windows in official offices and in official cars are covered with a blue material. The Race Course has been turned into a public square. The local authorities have permitted the ballrooms to open again; the majority of these ballrooms are full of taxi-dancers.
- 5. The ban on gasoline has been lifted by local authorities, and although it is of a very poor quality, gasoline can be obtained everywhere. The buses in

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Shanghai are all made in Czechoslovakia or Poland and are very good mechanically. The interiors of these buses are of extremely poor leather or material.

6. There are about 2,000 Soviet Russians in Shanghai, living in a 200 acre area in Hungjao. The area is enclosed with barbed wire and has guard posts. The Soviets do not associate with the local people. They are usually accompanied by an official guide or translator when they venture out.

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